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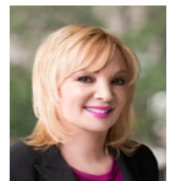
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Press release:

International Women’s Day to be celebrated at Yonkers Library, Sunday March 8th

The United Nations Association-USA, Westchester chapter extends a warm invitation to all Westchester residents and guests to participate in its celebration of International Women's Day on Sunday March 8th at the Yonkers Riverfront Library from 2:30 to 4:30 pm (registration begins at 2:00). The theme of the program is “Women's Contribution to Peace and Security”. The program will feature a welcome by Mike Spano, Mayor of the City of Yonkers, and by Marcia Brewster, President of UNA-Westchester. That will be followed by a screening of the PBS documentary "Women, Peace and Security: War Redefined" produced by Peter Bull.

A discussion of the film and women’s role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding will be led by NPR independent correspondent to the UN, Linda Fasulo. She has recently released the third edition of her insightful book *An Insider’s Guide to the UN*.



We will also hear from Gerardo Porteny Backal, Global Youth Engagement for the HeforShe campaign of UN-Women. He represents the global movement Young Men for Gender Equality and hails from Mexico.

Entertainment will be provided by Stephanie Marie Hanvey, a young advocate for girls' empowerment and a talented singer.



The event is being organized by UNA-Westchester’s Young Professionals Program, led by Andy Laub and Martha Perez. It is co-sponsored by the Yonkers Riverfront Library, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Sarah Lawrence College.

International Women’s Day has been celebrated since 1911, when it started as a labor union movement in Europe and the US. The fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City on March 25, 1911, that killed 146 people, including 123 young female garment workers, raised momentum for the movement. The rallies held in 1911 demanded that women get the right to vote and hold office, the right to work and an end to job discrimination. International Women’s Day became a time to express solidarity on women’s equal rights.

The United Nations made women’s equality one of its founding principles. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945 by 156 men and 4 women, was the first international agreement to recognize the equal rights of men and women. All but seven of the UN’s 194 member countries have already ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW), adopted by the General Assembly in 1979. The U.S. is one of those seven, and is in the company of Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and three others. The UNA-USA is encouraging individual cities to adopt CEDAW, following the lead of San Francisco and 46 other cities in the U.S. The New York City Council is considering adopting a CEDAW ordinance, and we encourage Yonkers and Mount Vernon to start the movement in Westchester.

The event is free to the public and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Please register for the program in advance at www.unawestchester.org or contact: unawestchester@gmail.com

For further information contact Martha Perez, 646 457 1031 or Andy Laub 914 960 0751.

Yonkers Riverfront Library is located at One Larkin Center in Yonkers, New York, across the street from the Yonkers Metro-North train station (Hudson Line). The library is handicapped accessible. Parking is available at the nearby Buena Vista Parking Garage or the Warburton Parking Garage. Limited metered street parking is also available in the area. For additional information about the library, please visit www.ypl.org.